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Mistaken Identity Discerned in '63 Memo on Bush

WASHINGTON, July 19 (AP) — A report that Vice President Bush worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in the early 1960's as an operative appears to be a case of mistaken identity, the agency said Tuesday.

The agency has identified a George William Bush, who worked at the C.I.A.'s headquarters in that period and who is apparently the one mentioned in a recently discovered memorandum by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said Sharron Basso, a C.I.A. spokesman. The Vice President's full name is George Herbert Walker Bush.

Ms. Basso said that while the agency usually does not confirm nor deny employment or association with the C.I.A., its officials believed in this case that "the record should be clarified."

Another agency official, who spoke on the condition that he not be named, said, "We put a lot of effort into this."

Magazine Article Cited

The suggestion that Mr. Bush, who was appointed Director of Central Intelligence by President Ford in 1975, may have had an earlier role with the agency was raised in the July 16 issue of The Nation magazine.

The magazine reported that a 1963 memorandum to the State Department from J. Edgar Hoover, then Director of the F.B.I., expressed the bureau's concerns that anti-Castro groups in Miami might use the assassination of President Kennedy as the rationale for undertaking a raid against Cuba.

"The substance of the foregoing information was orally furnished to Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency," the Hoover memorandum said.

The magazine article speculated that Mr. Bush used his Texas oil business as a cover for clandestine C.I.A. activities in the early 1960's. The Vice President denied the report.

Previously, the C.I.A. would not comment on the article or on the possibility that Mr. Bush may have worked for the agency more than a decade before he became its director.

Ms. Basso said the Mr. Bush mentioned in the memorandum worked on the night watch at the C.I.A.'s headquarters.

"This would have been the appropriate place to have received such an F.B.I. report," she added.

George William Bush left the C.I.A. in 1964 to work for the Defense Intelligence Agency, which he has also since left. His current whereabouts are unknown, Ms. Basso said.